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Appl. No. 10/678,023

PATENT

Reply to Office Action of November 8, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTSStatus of the Claims

Claims 1 and 2-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3 and 6 are allowed. Claims 4, 5 and 7-11 previously withdrawn from consideration were incorrectly cited as cancelled by the examiner in the examiner's amendment mailed 11/8/06. Claim 9 has been amended.

Applicant authorized the amendment to claim 3; however, cancellation of claims 4, 5 and 7-11 was not authorized. The status identifier of claims 4,5 and 7-11 is not cited as "canceled" in the current amendment because identifying the status of a claim in the claim listing as "canceled" will constitute an instruction to cancel the claim (§1.121 (c)(4)(ii)). A request is made herein for rejoinder of claims 4, 5 and 7-11 to now allowed claim 1.

The Amendments

Support for the amendments is as follows.

Claim 9 finds support in the specification on pages 4 ([0015]) thru p. 7([0018]).

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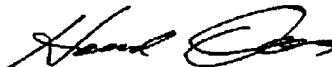
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (510) 559-5731.

Respectfully submitted,



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